

Oral Questions

[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

REQUEST THAT QUEBEC SHIPYARDS BE SAVED

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday, the Quebec Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Daniel Johnson, stated that the Quebec Ministers in the Tory Government are less inclined to keep their promises concerning the future of our Quebec shipyards. Moreover, Mr. Johnson said that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion do not understand the needs of Quebec shipyards and are not delivering the goods.

This is my question to the Prime Minister. Can he tell us whether the Tory Government intends to respond to Mr. Johnson's request and save our three Quebec shipyards?

[English]

Hon. Paul Dick (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should point out to the Hon. Member that I believe the shipyards in Quebec presently have more orders than any other shipyards in Canada. In dealing with the frigates, we are naturally looking at all the defence infrastructure across the country before making a decision. When the decision has been made, we will be glad to announce it.

[Translation]

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Mr. Daniel Johnson, Quebec's Minister of Industry and Commerce, has indicated that this would mean the end of the shipyards, and the unemployed Vickers workers in Montreal will let the Minister know he is wrong. Again, my question to the Prime Minister is simply this: Could the Prime Minister tell the House what other contracts the Federal Government intends to award to Quebec shipyards if they don't get any part of the frigate building contract? What other contracts are being considered to make sure that these shipyards will not close and that the Conservative Ministers will fulfill their commitments?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, the people involved in the shipbuilding industry a few years ago acknowledged the need to streamline this industry both in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. As the Quebec Minister and the Hon. Member himself will remember, the Federal Government contributed last year to a large extent to the purchase of the Eastern division of the MIL. When referring to Quebec shipyards, the Hon. Member could

remind the House and our colleagues that their order books are filled for a number of years, that the planned restructurization will take place and that the Federal Government will continue to help this industry both in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada, as it has tried to do since 1984.

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[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—FINAL TEXT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On October 5 the Prime Minister made a commitment to this House that the House committee would have the final document to study before the agreement was signed. He said, and I quote from page 9632 of *Hansard*:

—I shall table the complete text of the Agreement as soon as the wording is finalized. It will then be referred to the appropriate committee of the House for analysis, study and debate.

Does the Prime Minister stand by that commitment? Will we have the final document? Will it be sent to a House committee for study before it is signed?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this issue has been discussed on many occasions in the House, and I think the Parliamentary Secretary responded quite fully to that. Of course we are disappointed that the final text is not in place. However, that has not prevented this House from debating it, and the committee, and debate has taken place in the provinces and across the country. As soon as the final text is available it will certainly be brought before the House of Commons and every ample opportunity for debate will certainly be provided.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is again directed to the Prime Minister because it was his commitment to the House. Is that commitment still valid? Will the people of Canada have the finalized document? And will it appear before a committee of the House before the Prime Minister signs the final document?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, that is the same question and it is the same answer. There will be lots of opportunity to debate this issue in full, in the House, in committee and probably in the country.